Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 45, 51, 62, and 73.

Please add new claims 85 and 86.

1-44. (Previously Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one base unit and a plurality of handheld response units communicating with said at least one base unit over at least one wireless communication link, said at least one base unit comprising a base processor and at least one base transceiver, said plurality of handheld response units comprising a plurality of response processors and a plurality of response transceivers, each of said response processors and response transceivers at one of said response units, said at least one wireless communication link comprising said at least one base transceiver and said plurality of response transceivers;

wherein said ~~at least one base unit sends~~base processor is programmed to control said at least one base transceiver to send polling signals to said response units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said response ~~units send~~processors are programmed to control said response transceivers to send response data to said at least one base unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user; and

~~said at least one communication link comprising at least one base transceiver at said at least one base unit and a plurality of response transceivers, each at one of said response units,~~ wherein said at least one base transceiver is controlled by said base processor and said response transceivers are controlled by said response processors to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one base transceiver sends

polling signals and said response transceivers send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one base unit provides frequency hopping information to said response units so that said response units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said response units receive said polling signals and determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the response unit, wherein at least some of said response units send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies.

46. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers sending polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

47. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein at least some of said base transceivers transmit on common hop frequencies.

48. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, wherein said plurality of base transceivers transmit on separate hop frequencies.

49. (Previously Added) The system of claim 48 wherein said at least one base unit comprises a plurality of base units, each of said base transceivers at one of said base units.

50. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 48 wherein said plurality of base units operate from a common frequency hop table.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 ~~comprising at least one~~wherein said base processor comprises a base microcomputer ~~at said at least one base unit~~ and wherein said response processors comprise a plurality of response microcomputers~~, each at one of said response units~~.

52. (Previously Added) The system of claim 51 including a frequency hop table at said at least one base unit.

53. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 52 wherein said response units communicate with said at least one base transceiver without direct access to a said frequency hop table.

54. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said polling signals further include a base transmission at a particular hop frequency, and wherein said slave units use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the hop frequency of the base transmission.

55. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 54 wherein the base transmission sends application data to the response units.

56. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 54 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers sending polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

57. (Previously Added) The system of claim 56 wherein one of said plurality of base transceivers transmits said initial transmission and said plurality of base transceivers transmit the base transmission at the determined hop frequency.

58. (Previously Added) The system of claim 57 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the base transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

59. (Previously Added) The system of claim 54 wherein said base transceivers transmitting on a common channel.

60. (Previously Added) The system of claim 54 wherein said plurality of response transceivers transmit at one or more hop frequencies.

61. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 45 wherein the polling signals further include a base transmission, wherein the base transmission sends application data to the response units.

62. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link, said at least one master unit comprising a master processor and at least one master transceiver, said plurality of handheld slave units comprising a plurality of slave processors and a plurality of slave transceivers, each of said slave processors and slave transceivers at one of said slave units, said at least one wireless communication link comprising said at least one master transceiver and said plurality of slave transceivers;

wherein said ~~at least one master unit sends~~master processor is programmed to control said at least one master transceiver to send polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said slave ~~units send~~processors are programmed to control said slave transceivers to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

~~said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one master unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units;~~

wherein said at least one master transceiver is controlled by said base processor and said slave transceivers are controlled by said slave processors to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one master transceiver sends polling signals and said slave transceivers send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one master unit provides frequency hopping information to said slave units so that said slave units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling

signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said slave units receive said polling signals and determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the slave unit, wherein at least some of said slave units send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies;

wherein the initial transmissions comprise transmissions on multiple different hop frequencies according to a spread-spectrum protocol; and

wherein said slave transceivers receive an initial transmission at a particular home frequency.

63. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 62 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, said master transceivers sending polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

64. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 63 wherein said master transceivers transmit on common hop frequencies.

65. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 62 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, wherein said plurality of master transceivers transmit on separate hop frequencies.

66. (Previously Added) The system of claim 65 wherein said at least one master unit comprises a plurality of master units, each of said master transceivers at one of said master units.

67. (Previously Added) The system of claim 65 wherein said plurality of master units operate from a common frequency hop table.

68. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 62 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units send response data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

69. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 62 wherein the polling signals further include a master transmission at a particular hop frequency, wherein the master transmission sends application data to said slave units.

70. (Previously Added) The system of claim 69 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

71. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 69 wherein said slave units use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the particular hop frequency of the master transmission.

72. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 62 wherein said slave units send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link at one or more hop frequencies.

73. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link, said at least one master unit comprising a master processor and at least one master transceiver, said plurality of handheld slave units comprising a plurality of slave processors and a plurality of slave transceivers, each of said slave processors and slave transceivers at one of said slave units, said at least one wireless communication link comprising said at least one master transceiver and said plurality of slave transceivers;

wherein said ~~at least one master unit sends~~master processor is programmed to control said at least one master transceiver to send polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said slave ~~units send~~ processors are programmed to control said slave transceivers to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

~~wherein said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one master unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units;~~ and

wherein said at least one master transceiver is controlled by said master processor and said slave transceivers are controlled by said slave processors to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one master transceiver sends polling signals and said slave transceivers send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one master unit provides frequency hopping information to said slave units so that said slave units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said slave units are adapted to receive said polling signals and determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the slave unit, wherein at least some of said slave units send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies;

wherein the initial transmissions comprise transmissions on multiple different hop frequencies according to a spread-spectrum protocol;

wherein said slave transceivers receive an initial transmission at a particular home frequency; and

wherein each of said slave units dynamically moves to a different particular home frequency if no polling signal is received within a period of time.

74. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 73 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, said master transceivers sending polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

75. (Previously Added) The system of claim 74 wherein said master transceivers transmitting at common hop frequencies.

76. (Previously Added) The system of claim 75 wherein one of said plurality of master transceivers sends the initial transmission having the seed packet to said slave units.

77. (Previously Added) The system of claim 76 wherein said plurality of master transceivers alternate sending the initial transmission.

78. (Previously Added) The system of claim 73 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one base unit, said plurality of master transceivers transmitting at different hop frequencies.

79. (Previously Added) The system of claim 78 wherein said at least one master unit comprises a plurality of master units, each of said master transceivers at one of said master units.

80. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 73 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units send response data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

81. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 73 wherein said slave units send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link at one or more hop frequencies.

82. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 73 wherein the polling signals further include a master transmission at a particular hop frequency, wherein the master transmission sends application data to said slave units.

83. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 82 wherein said slave units use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the particular hop frequency of the master transmission.

84. (Previously Added) The system of claim 82 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

85. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein said master processor comprises a master microcomputer and said slave processors comprise a plurality of slave microcomputers.

86. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein said master processor comprises a master microcomputer and said slave processors comprise a plurality of slave microcomputers.